

Discussion Questions for Chapter 5-9, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

1. What does the street lamp in Chapter 5 communicate about the ideals of the Eatonville townspeople? Does it exemplify a control over nature that empowers the community? Why does Mrs. Bogle sing "Jesus, the light of the world," when the lamp is lit? What does Joe mean when he says: "And when Ah touch de match tuh dat lamp-wick let de light penetrate inside of yuh, and let it shine, let it shine, let it shine"?
2. In Chapter 6, Bonner's yellow mule stimulates the Eatonville men to "mule-talk." How does this deepen the meaning of the mule, both literally and symbolically? How does Hurston capture the musical, imaginative talk of the townspeople in this scene? This talk also reflects "playing the dozens." If you have time, research the history and evolution of "playing the dozens."
3. In chapters 7-9, how does Janie's voice change?